

The ORDINARY's ACCOUNT

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Life, Birth, Death, and Parentage

Of John Hall, Richard Webb, Stephen Bunch,
William Davis, and Joseph Montisano, Five
notorious Thieves and Housebreakers; and
William Kite, for Ravishing Elizabeth Berry, a
Girl but of seven Years of Age.

With their full Tryals, Examinations, Convictions,
and Condemnation at the Sessions-House in the
Old-Bailly, on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and
Saturday, the 10th, 11th, 12th, and 13th
Days of December, 1706.

As also the manner of their Behaviour whilst un-
der Sentence of Death, in the Condemn'd Hold
in Newgate; and last Dying Words and true
Speeches as deliver'd to Mr. LORRANE at
Tyburn; and Relation of the several most
strange and unheard of Robberies committed by
the abovementioned Criminals through the
whole Course of their Lives.

Discuss'd according to Order.

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row, 1707.

The Ordinary's Account, &c.

John Hall was Born in the Year 1675, in Gray's-Inn-Lane in St. Andrew's Parish Holbourn, but being descended of very mean Parents, his Mother at this time carryng a Basket in Brook's-Market, and living upon the Alms of the Parish, he was depriv'd of the Advantages of any Education, insomuch that he could neither Write nor Read; so that for want of going to School, and imbibing good Principles in his Juvenile Years, he took to Pilfering as soon as ever he was able to go, playing about the Streets; but at Seven Years of Age, being put out to a Chimney-Sweeper, with whom he serv'd his Time out, tho' with a great deal of Trouble and Vexation to his Master, who had daily Complaints made of him for his roguish Tricks; and being now for himself, he followed his Employment for a little time, but committing several Thefts where he was at Work, he at last became so noted for Robbing People, that no Body would employ him: Thus losing his Business, he entirely gave himself up to Thieving till about the 25th Year of his Age, about which time he Marry'd an Oyster-Wench; by whom he has had several Children, and two or three now living; and what with his great Workmanship in dextrously robbing all he came near, his Wife is become as good as himself in Vindicating and upholding him in all his Villany.

Thus when he was enter'd into a State of Matrimony, and became the Father of a hopeful Brood, he would not by his honest Endeavours strive to maintain them, but took irregular Courses still, and went for

he while chiefly upon the Roguery of cutting Boxes
 and Trunks from behind Coaches, for which he has
 been often committed to Newgate, and sent into the
 Land Service abroad, from whence he has often de-
 parted, and came for London again, and then took upon
 him the Knack of cutting Bags from off of Folks Hor-
 ses, as they rid along in the Night; for this way of
 Robbing he has often been took, and sent into the Sea
 Service, from which also he has made his Escape, and
 till pursued his most vicious Courses of Whoring,
 wearing, Cursing, Drinking, Gaming, and Sabbath-
 breaking; and to support him in all these unaccount-
 able Extravagancies, he went then upon the Method
 of Robbing Waggons of Boxes, Trunks, Pieces of
 Cloth, or other Things, as they come in a dark Morn-
 ing into Town from Kensington, Islington, Bow, or any
 other Place. And one Morning as Jack Hall and some
 of his Companions were upon the Spy for a
 story, and dogg'd a Waggon from Knights-Bridge
 through Pickadilly and into the City, but the Ma-
 ster-Waggoner and his Son riding behind the Waggon
 on one Horse, they had no Opportunity of taking
 any thing out of the Waggon; whereupon as the
 waggon was going under Newgate, they were resolv'd
 to have something out of it by Hook or by Crook,
 and in order to their roguish Design, Jack Hall goes up
 to the Waggoner, snatches his Son from off behind, and
 runs with him under his Arms down the Old-Baily; the
 Waggoner being surpriz'd, he calls out to the Man be-
 fore to stop, crying out, His Son was stole, his Son was
 stole, and whilst he was riding after his Son, his Man ac-
 cordingly stopp'd the Waggon under Newgate, and whilst he was
 standing to gaze after his Master, the Accomplices of Jack
 Hall (who dropt the Man's Son down at the Sessions-House-
 gate, and took to his Heels down Fleet-Lane) had the Op-
 portunity of taking out two Pieces of Woollen-Cloth, worth
 five thirty odd Pounds.

After this he became a noted House-breaker, and by making himself an Evidence to save his own Life, he swore against Arthur Chambers one of his Gang, whom he hang'd this time Twelve-month; but not making good use of this Mercy, he abus'd it by following his Notorious Actions still, and was so insolent in his Roguery, because not took in his Villany for some time after hanging his Comrades, that he would make his Brag among his Associates, he had made a League with the Devil not to be detected these Seven Years, and when that Term was near expiring, he would renew his Lease again. Furthermore tho' this was only one of Jack's Rhodomontado's, yet we must give that Due to his Impudence, as to say, that when his sawc Wife was put lately into the Stocks near Holbourn-Bars for some of her impertinent Tricks, her hopeful Husband, tho' then under bad Circumstances, did venture with Pistol in Hand to rescue his pure Stick of Wood of a Wife.

But as the Proverb is, *The Pitcher never goes so often to the Well but it comes home broke at last*: This old Offender, Jack Hall, committing a Robbery and Burglary in November last, he was the Day after apprehended by one Voll a Carman and Brown a Bailiff; but the full Particulars of his ill Fate take by the Tryal following.

John Hall, Richard Low, and Stephen Bunob, were all Three Indicted for breaking open the dwelling House of Capt. John Gayon of the Parish of Stepney, between the Hours of One and Two at Night, on the 25th of November last, and taking from thence a Blue Cloth Waistcoat, a pair of Cloth Breeches, 3 Suits of Lace Head-Cloaths, 4 Yards of Yellow Ribbon, 4 Yards Green Ribbon, Two Silver Spoons, and a Dram Cup the Goods of the said John Gayon. The first Witness was Madam Gayon, who depos'd, That on the 25th of November, about One or Two a Clock at Night, she heard a Noise of Thieves in the House, and got up and alarm'd the Neighbours; that on a sudden Three Men rush'd into the Room, Two Men came up to her, and said, *Damn you, deliver your Money*; and gave her a blow on the Face, and bid her go to Bed: That she reply'd, *That she had no Money there, but what she had was in the next Room*; upon their going to which Room she lock'd the Door upon them. Being ask'd, *Whether*

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knew any of them? Reply'd, That the Person that struck
was a tall Man, much of the Stature of Low, but she
could not swear to any of their Faces; she viewing them by
other light than that of the Moon. The Maids Evidence
was much the same with her Mistress, except in this
particular, That Hall holding a Pistol at her Breast, and a
Candle in his Hand; gave her the perfect knowledge of his
Countenance, so that she swore positively against Hall.

Another considerable piece of Evidence was that
of one Briggs, a Boy of Eleven Years Old, at the
Green Man near Billingsgate, who depos'd, That Six Men
came to his Father's House, about Four a Clock in the Morn-
ing, and being near, had the Opportunity to see and hear what
pass'd, which was after this manner, viz: That one of them
pull'd a Dram-Cup out of his Pocket; and another, out of a
Handkerchief, took a Westcoat Trim'd with Silver Thread,
and Buttons, with Three Head-Dresses with Knots, which
agreed exactly with those that the Prosecutor lost. That he
heard Bunch say, We have made a pretty good Hand-
on't to Night; and Hall reply'd, That he hop'd they
should make a better Hand on't to morrow Night. Be-
ing askt how he could distinguish one from another? reply'd,
That when they spoke aloud, they call'd one another Brother
Stitch, but when they spoke softly, they call'd one another by
their proper Names. That before they went away, they made
an Appointment to meet at the Two Fighting Cocks in Bun-
hill-Fields, between Five and Six a Clock that Night; and
this Evidence acquainting his Father with it, he suspecting
them to be ill Persons, acquainting some stout Men with
it, they engag'd to go to the place to take them, but not find-
ing them in the House, as they came away they met them go-
ing thither in their pursuit, the Prisoners fir'd several Pi-
stols at them, but at last they apprehended them.

Low took the Fact upon himself, to excuse the other Two.
But the Evidence being very clear, and the Prisoners Old Of-
fenders, the Jury found them all Guilty of the Indictment.

Richard Low, Aged 24 years, Condemn'd for the same as *John Hall*. Born near the Horse-ferry, *Westminster* of Parents of pretty good Credit and Reputation; and tho' they would have given him some Education, and Reading and Writing, yet being an untoward Child he would never addict himself to Learning, but always, but always play'd Truant; till at last his Friends seeing his Unluckiness, they put him out Apprentice to a Watch-maker: but keeping Ill Company, he serv'd not half his time e'er he run away from his Master when at the same time his Parents thro' Misfortune being reduc'd to a mean Estate, and not in a Condition of supporting this their Wicked Son in his Extravagancy, he got into a Gang of Thieves, and for his Wickedness had oftentimes been in *Newgate*, and once obtain'd Mercy too for their being this time Twelve-Month an Evidence against one *John Goodwyn*, alias *Blump*, who was Hang'd: But not turning this Mercy to a better Advantage, he still sued his old Courses of Whoring, Drinking, Swearing and Thieving, and to preserve himself from Pressing, he generally went in Soldiers Oloaths, and having belong'd to the Foot-Guards, being about 29 Years of Age.

He was a Person of a very ill and dogged Disposition, mischievous in many Actions, and of an undaunted spirit whenever he was in Goal for a Fact as he thought did not reach his Life; and for his Unruliness has been often put into the Bilboes in *Newgate*, and severely handled, especially for wounding one of his Fellow Prisoners, because his Heart mis-gave him in acting a barbarous Conspiracy forg'd betwixt Low and him to Murder *Mr. Robinson*, a Turn-Key, in hopes to make thereby an Escape. But after all his villanous Actions, being took in *Bunhill-Fields*, he was committed by Justice *Conse* to his old College of *Newgate*, from whence he never went far abroad till he went to take his Degree at *Tyburn*, where he commenc'd Master of his Profession for his Life-time.

Stephen

Stephen Bunch, Condemn'd for the same Fact, was born in
 Aged 28 years of good Parents, and put out an Apprentice to
 a Pateman, but he had not been at that Occupation above two
 months ere he forsook his Master, and betook himself to all
 sorts, as Gaming, keeping Company with lewd Women, Sab-
 breaking, Drunkenness, in all which Extravagancies to sup-
 port himself he took to Housebreaking, having been a notorious
 offender in that way, till he had been in *Newgate* several times,
 once lay'd his Life by being an Evidence with *Jack Hall* a-
 gainst *Chambers* and other Thieves. But amongst several of his
 various Pranks, he often plaid several comical Tricks, the most
 remarkable whereof is this, viz. One day being upon some Pro-
 in *Essex*, and destitute of Money, as he was coming along a
 Path from *Brentwood* to *London*, he espy'd over the Hedges a
 Gentleman mounted upon a very fine Gelding valu'd at above
 Pounds; *Bunch* presently gets the length of two or three Fields
 before the Gentleman, and going over a Stile in the Turning of
 the lane, he there lays himself down by a Ditch-side with his Ear
 to the Ground, till the Gentleman was come up to him;
 seeing him lie in that Posture, he ask'd him the meaning of
Bunch in a sort of Admiration lifting up his Hands, as much
 to say don't disturb him, gave him no answer for a pretty
 while, and then arising, quoth *Bunch* to the Gentleman, Sir, I
 have heard much talk of Fairies, but could never believe there were
 till now, for upon my Word under this Spot of Ground there is such
 a Harmony of melodious Tunes playing upon all Sorts of charming
 instruments, so ravishing to the Ears, (that a Man with the great
 transports thereof (provided they were continually to play) could lie here
 ever. The Gentleman too eager to hear these fine Raptures,
 lights from his Gelding, and lays his Ear to the Ground with
 his Face towards *Bunch*, but told him he could hear nothing. Oh
 (reply'd *Bunch*) lay t'other Ear to it. With that the Gentle-
 man very attentively lays his other Ear to the Ground to hear
 the harmonious sounds, and his Back being then towards *Bunch*,
 presently mounts his Gelding, and rid as fast as he could away:
 when being come within a quarter of a Mile of *Rumford* he a-
 lights and turns the Gelding loose, thinking if the Gentleman
 had any Inn in that Town the Gelding would make to it, and
 accordingly did run into the *Red Lion*, when at the same time the
 ostler happening to come out, and seeing the Gelding running
 without any Body upon him, he cry'd out, Oh! Master, Ma-
 ster, here's Mr. What d'ye call him's Gelding come without his Master,
 calling him by his Name) and *Bunch* being just by, takes the
 advantage of hearing what the Gentleman's Name was, and
 he was engag'd with some Gentlemen at *Brentwood*, desiring

the Inn-Keeper to send him 10 l. and had sent his Gelding to Pledge, as designing to be there himself in Two or Three Hours time. Ay, ay, (quoth the Inn-keeper) a Hundred Pounds was at his Service if he had sent for it; and accordingly a Bunch 10 l. with which he came up to London; and about 5 Hours afterwards the Gentleman came up to the Inn put on and blowing in his Jack-Boots, asking the Inn-keeper if he had seen any Body ride with his Gelding. The Inn-keeper bid him nor fret, for his Man had left his Gelding there, and he had given him 10 l. according to his Desire. *But him for a Dog* (quoth the Gentleman) *he's none of my Man, but I'm glad he has left my Gelding here, and took no more Money upon him; however it shall be a Warning to me for ever alighting from my Horse to hear Fiddles and Musick.* But this Bunch having reign'd a long time in Roguery, he was took in the Mint in Southwark, and sent to Marshalsea, from whence he was sent to Newgate, and took Turn at Tyburn with the Chimney-Sweeper, who was very ambitious of obtaining the Title of *The King of Thieves*.

As for the other Malefactors, there is nothing remarkable in their Lives; so the Dead-Warrant being sent to the Sheriff Tuesday Morning the 16th Instant, they were convey'd to the Place of Execution, where they made an ingenious Confession to the following Effect, *That they were all old Offenders, and had done a great deal of Wrong to a many People, for which they were heartily sorry, and humbly begg'd their Pardons whom they had in any way offended, hoping that as they were now in a possibility of making Satisfaction for the Injuries they had done them, that they would be so Charitable as to forgive them their Offences, since they died in Charity with all Men, and that for an Attenuation of their manifold Crimes now they were to suffer Death.* After a Penitential Psalm was sung they had some time allow'd them for their more private Devotion, which being ended, they were all six turn'd off the Cart, uttering these or the like Exclamations. *viz. Sweet Jesu have Mercy upon us miserable Sinners Good Lord, pour Consolation down upon us. O Lord our blessed Father receive us into a Glory.*

This is all the Account which I can give of these Criminals.

Wednesday, December 17th. 1707. *Paul Lorrane, Ordinary*